

**SECRET BALLOT ELECTION AND
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
Saturday, March 7, 2015**

To Bonnie Baker, resident of the Town of Embden, in the County of Somerset, State of Maine,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the town of Embden in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Embden Town Office in said town on Saturday, the 7th day of March, A.D. 2015, at seven and forty-five o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from eight o'clock in the forenoon until twelve o'clock in the afternoon;

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Embden Community Center (formerly the Embden Elementary School) in said town on Saturday, the 7th day of March, 2015 A.D., at one o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 47 as set out below, to wit:

Article 1: To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting and to vote by written ballot.

Article 2: To elect all municipal officers and school committee members as are require to be elected.

Nominated Candidates;

Selectman, three-year term:

Scott LeHay

Wayne McLaughlin

Town Clerk/Treasurer, one-year term:

Bonnie Baker

Tax Collector, one-year term:

Ruth Blake

Road Commissioner, one-year term:

Michael Witham

Assessor, three-year term:

Raymond Young

RSU #74 School Board Director, one-year term:

No Candidate

RSU #74 School Board Director, three-year term:

No Candidate

Article 3: To see if the Inhabitants will accept the following tax assessment and collection related questions:

A. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property tax overpayment of less than \$20 to that person's next year's property taxes.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

B. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize citizens to pay their property taxes in two equal installments, the first one-half of taxes assessed for the current year shall become due and payable 30 days after commitment, the second one-half of taxes assessed for the current year shall become due and payable on November 19, 2015, and to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum on unpaid balances after each due date, or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

C. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.S.R.A. Section 506.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

D. If the Inhabitants accept the previous section, what, if any, interest shall the Inhabitants pay on these prepaid taxes? (If the Inhabitants vote to pay interest, the interest rate cannot be more than 8 %.)

Selectmen recommend 0%

E. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate from overlay to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2015.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

F. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A Section 506-A.

Selectmen recommend Yes and a rate of 5%.

Article 4. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.S.R.A. Section 2953.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

Article 5. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

Article 6. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for, accept, and expend grant money available from the State of Maine, Federal Government, or other organizations for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and needed matching funds are available within the current budget.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

Article 7. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount of the previous annual budget during the period from January 1, 2016 to the Annual Town Meeting.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

Article 8. To see if the Inhabitants will authorize the Municipal Officers to sell and dispose of any tax acquired property by the following procedure; acquiring a fair market value on the property, set a minimum bid amount and to place said property out to bid. Then to award the property on such terms as they deem to be in the best interest of the town and to execute Quit Claim Deeds for such property.

Selectmen recommend Yes.

Article 9. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept gifts of money, equipment, or other articles for the town. (All gifts to become property of the town.)

Selectmen recommend Yes.

Article 10. To see if the Inhabitants will accept funds from, but not limited to, the following potential revenue sources:

- A. Municipal Revenue Sharing
- B. Local Road Assistance
- C. State Aid for Education
- D. Civil Emergency Funds
- E. Tree Growth Reimbursement
- F. Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement
- G. Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
- H. General Assistance Reimbursement

Selectmen recommend Yes.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to carry the following account balances forward into their respective accounts. (Account balances as of Dec. 31st, 2014):

<u>BALANCE FORWARD ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>2015 REQUEST</u>
Information/Technology	\$ 478
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 13,120
Community Center	\$ 244
Tax Assessment	\$ 10,450
Tax Maps-Maintenance	\$ 10,054
Planning Board	\$ 15,864
Code Enforcement	\$ 653
Appeals Board	\$ 3,100
Animal Control Account	\$ 3,710
E-911 Account	\$ 2,173
Highways & Bridges (Summer Roads)	\$148,675
Recreation Account	\$ 4,120
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 54,660

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen Total: \$ 266,801

Article 12. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 from taxation for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Municipal Officials or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 13. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,500 from surplus for membership, dues, etc. in civic organizations, (i.e., KVCOG, SEDC, MMA, MTCCA, MTCTA, MAAO, etc.) or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 14. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from taxation for all insurance policies, (e.g.; worker's comp., building, equipment, etc.) or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 15. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 from surplus for legal expenses or what they will do related thereto (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend.

Article 16. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from surplus for audit of the 2014 town books, expenses for holding Town Meeting(s), and for printing of the Annual Town Report or what they will do related thereto (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend.

Article 17. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 from taxation for unanticipated expenses or what they will do related thereto (If required, any additional funding to be from Overlay).

Selectmen recommend.

Article 18. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,200 from taxation for utilities (fuel, electricity, telephone, internet, security alarm, mowing, trash removal, cleaning, etc.) or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 19. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 from taxation for supplies and equipment used to run the operations of the town office or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 20. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from taxation for the Information/Technology Account or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 21. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 from excise for annual licensing and maintenance fee for the Municipal Software from Trio Software Company or what they will do related thereto (this will become a balance forward account).

Selectmen recommend.

Article 22. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from taxation plus the revenues received from the Embden Community Club (\$12,000 year-end balance as of 12/31/2014), for the yearly repair and maintenance of all town owned buildings, structures, and properties or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 23. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100 from surplus for Community Center operating expenses/office equipment or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 24.

A. To approve a raise for the Board of Assessors (an increase of \$2000 to the existing Chairman's salary and an increase of \$1000 to the existing certification stipend for each Assessor) or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen do not recommend.

B. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,055 from surplus for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for Tax Assessment or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 25. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from taxation for the Tax Map Maintenance Account or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 26. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 from surplus for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Planning Board or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 27. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from excise, for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for Code Enforcement or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 28. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100 from surplus, for compensation, applicable taxes, training, and other related expenses for the Appeals Board or what they will do related thereto (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend.

Article 29. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,000 from taxation for contracted fire protection and authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a fire protection agreement with the Town of Anson or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 30. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 from taxation for the annual rental of fire hydrants to the Anson/Madison Water District pursuant to 35-A M.S.R.A. Section 107 or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 31. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 from taxation for emergency services to Anson-Madison-Starks (AMS) Ambulance Service or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 32. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 from surplus, for Animal Control or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 33. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 from taxation for Town E911 signs and maintenance or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 34. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200 from surplus for compensation, and applicable taxes for the town's Emergency Management Department or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 35. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to pay all Town hired labor and equipment at the prevailing State of Maine hourly rate or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 36. To see if the Inhabitants will permit the Municipal Officers and/or the Road Commissioner to use URIP/LRAP Block Grant money within the dedicated account for improvements to Town maintained roads and/or bridges, not to exceed the year ending balance of \$43,552.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 37. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for repair and maintenance of bridges, roads, and culverts, dedicated for use by the Road Commissioner, or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend \$125,000 from taxation and \$75,000 from excise.

Article 38. To see if the Inhabitants will select a contractor by secret ballot from the list below based on the sealed bids opened at the regular Select Board meeting January 19, 2015 and allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into a three year snow removal contract with the selected contractor or what they will do related thereto. The following contractors/bids were submitted:

Josh Nunes/American Construction Services:	2015-16 snow season \$228,500 2016-17 snow season \$228,500 2017-18 snow season \$228,500
Adams General Construction Inc.:	2015-16 snow season \$235,000 2016-17 snow season \$235,000 2017-18 snow season \$235,000
J & R Davenport Trucking:	2015-16 snow season \$245,000 2016-17 snow season \$245,000 2017-18 snow season \$245,000
Nitram Excavation & General Contractor:	2015-16 snow season \$258,614 2016-17 snow season \$259,814 2017-18 snow season \$261,014

Article 39. If Article 38 passes, to see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$254,000 for the winter roads contract or what they will do related thereto.

(2014-15 contract year's appropriation is \$224,000, of which \$116,000 will be paid from January-April 2015. October-December 2015 payments will not exceed \$138,000, regardless of which contractor is chosen. Therefore \$254,000 will be the maximum appropriation for 2015.)

Selectmen recommend \$180,000 from taxation and \$74,000 from surplus.

Article 40. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,000 from taxation for sanitation/solid waste disposal to Waste Management, Inc. or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 41. To see if the Inhabitants will raise and appropriate \$2,000 from excise for the purpose of General Assistance administered by the town or what they will do related thereto (If required, any additional funding to be from Surplus).

Selectmen recommend.

Article 42. To see if the Inhabitants will raise and appropriate the recommended amount from surplus for the following Social Services and Charities or what they will do related thereto.

A. Stewart Public Library	\$1000.00
B. Somerset County Hospice	\$1000.00
C. Senior Spectrum Family Violence	\$ 500.00
D. Madison Food Cupboard	\$2500.00
E. Baker Mountain	\$ 500.00
F. Cub Scouts	\$ 300.00
G. Sunset Cemetery	\$1000.00
H. Madison Public Library	\$ 500.00
I. Maine Public Broadcasting	\$ 100.00
J. Community Health & Counseling Services	\$ 50.00
K. Life Flight of Maine	\$1000.00
L. Girl Scouts	\$ 300.00
M. Moose Alley Riders ATV Club	\$ 250.00
Total:	\$9,000.00

Selectmen recommend.

Article 43. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 from surplus and appropriate the revenues collected in program fees if any for compensation, applicable taxes, program funding, and other related expenses for the Embden Recreation Department or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 44. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 from excise to the Embden Travelers Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their system of trails and bridges open in snow season to the public within the Town of Embden.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 45. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 from taxation plus interest from the Mary Ann Burns trust fund for use, dedicated for maintenance of cemeteries within the town or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 46. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 from surplus for the Capital Improvement Fund, specifically for the purpose of future Slipp Road/Mill Stream scour repair as identified by the Maine Department of Transportation or what they will do related thereto.

Selectmen recommend.

Article 47. To see if the Inhabitants will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Embden by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved by the proposed articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectmen recommend.

Dated: This 2nd day of February, 2015.

Signed: The Municipal Officers

Charles E. Taylor
Charles E. Taylor, Chairman

Wayne McLaughlin
Wayne McLaughlin, Selectman

Elizabeth Pratt
Elizabeth Pratt, Selectman

Rules of Town Meeting

All comments or questions will be directed to the Moderator.

No one may speak until recognized by the moderator.

The article will be read in full and the recommendation of the Municipal Officers will be stated. An affirmative motion will be made by an identified voter. No negative motions, including a motion to pass over, will be accepted.

Vote will be by holding up the colored index cards that were issued when you checked in. The results of the vote will be announced. Vote may be challenged by at least 7 voters.

Any decision by the moderator may be challenged. He may be overruled by a majority vote of the registered voters.

THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS APPLY TO ALL TOWN MEETINGS:

1. **QUALIFIED VOTER:** Every voter in the town may vote in the election of all town officials and in all town affairs.
2. **MODERATOR ELECTED AND SWORN:** The clerk, or in the clerk's absence a selectman or constable, shall open the meeting by:
 - a. Calling for the election of a moderator by written ballot
 - b. Receiving and counting votes for moderator
 - c. Swearing in the moderator
3. **MODERATOR PRESIDES:** As soon as he has been elected and sworn, the moderator shall preside over and supervise the voting at the meeting and may appoint a deputy moderator to assist the moderator. If the moderator is absent or unable to carry out the duties, the clerk, or in the clerk's absence a selectman or constable, may call for the election of a deputy moderator to act in the absence of the moderator.
 - a. All persons shall be silent at the moderator's command. A person may not speak before the moderator recognizes that person. A person who is not a voter in the town may speak at the meeting only with the consent of 2/3 of the voters present.
 - b. If any person, after a command for order by the moderator, continues to act in a disorderly manner, the moderator may direct that person to leave the meeting. If the person refuses to leave, the moderator may have that person removed by a constable and confined until the meeting is adjourned.
 - c. When a vote declared by the moderator is immediately questioned by at least 7 voters, the moderator shall make certain by polling the voters or by a method directed by the municipal legislative body.
4. **VOTES RECORDED BY THE CLERK:** The clerk shall accurately record the votes of the meeting.
5. **WRITTEN BALLOTS:** The clerk shall prepare the ballots. Ballots shall be of uniform size and color and must be blank except that 2 squares with "yes" by one and "no" by the other may be printed on them. The moderator shall ensure that each voter receives only one ballot for each vote taken.

[illegible]